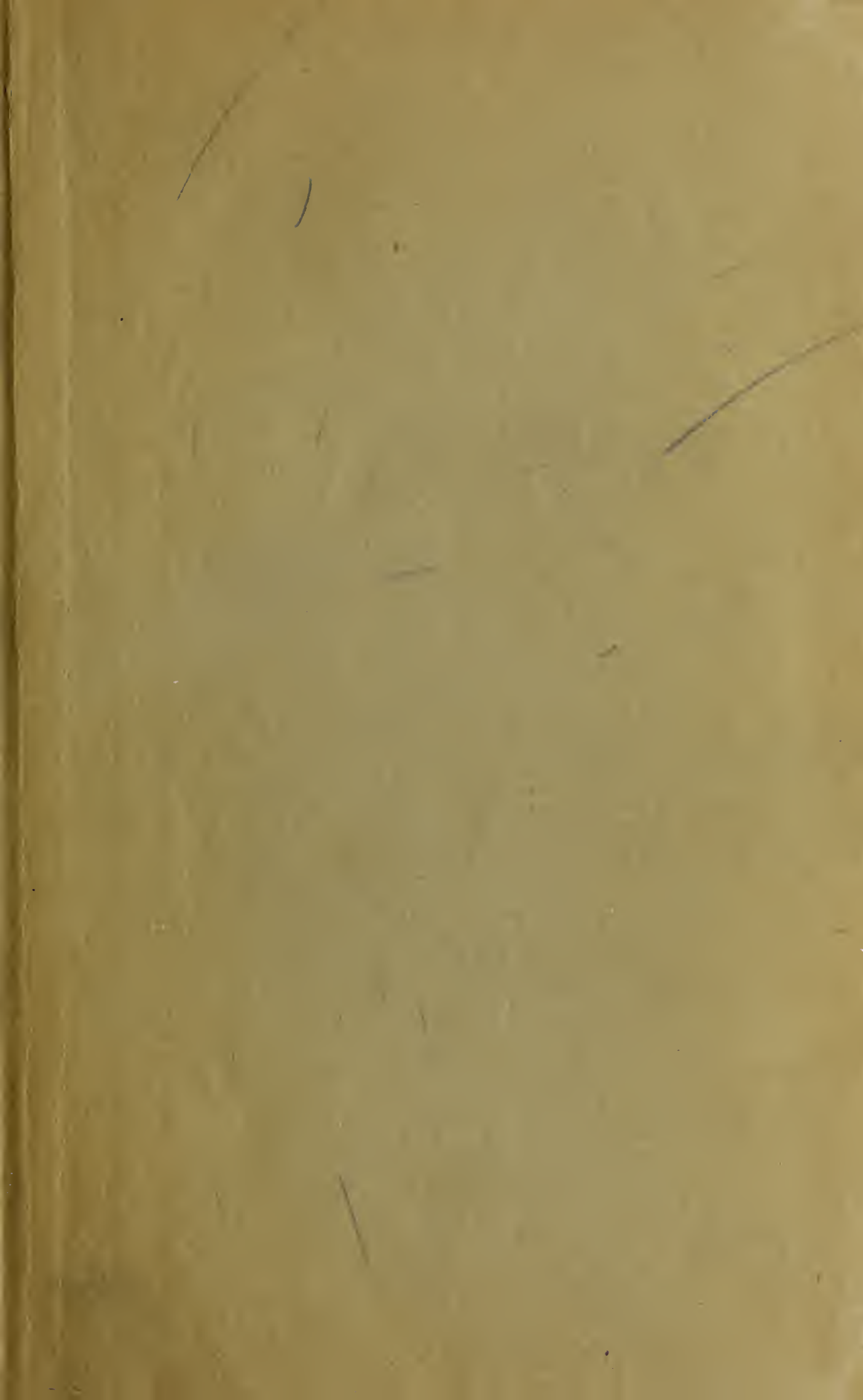
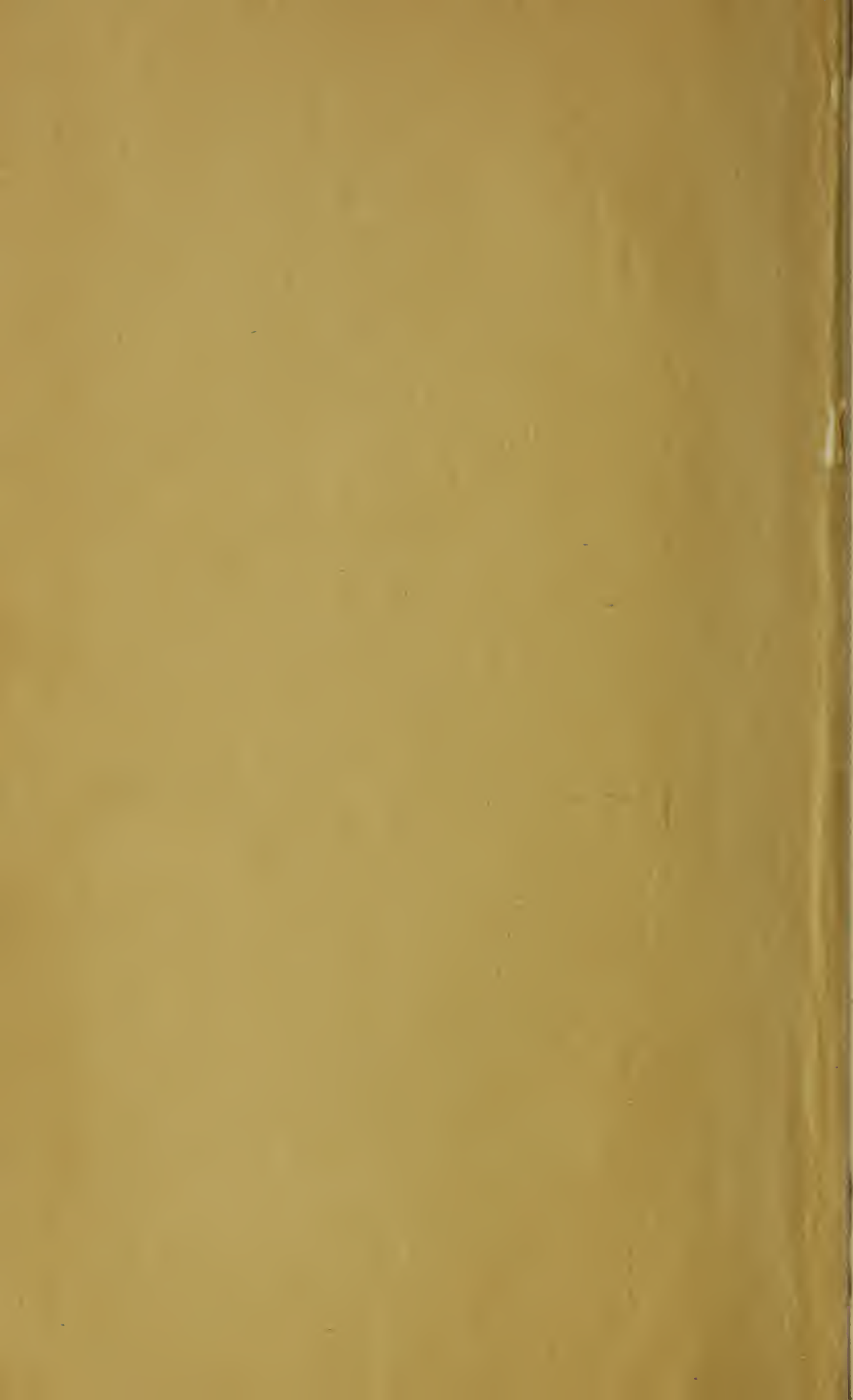
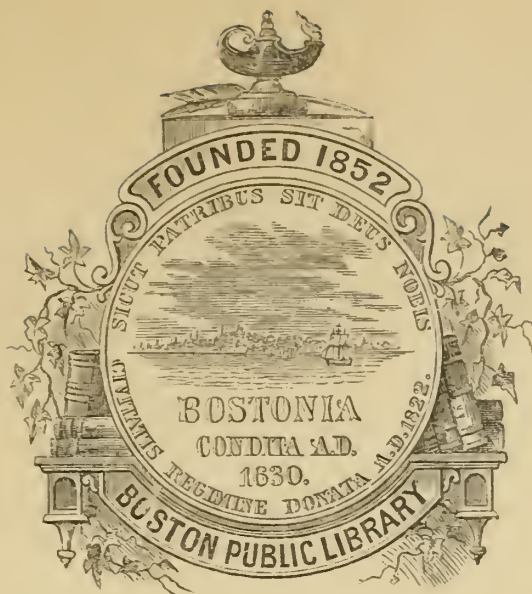


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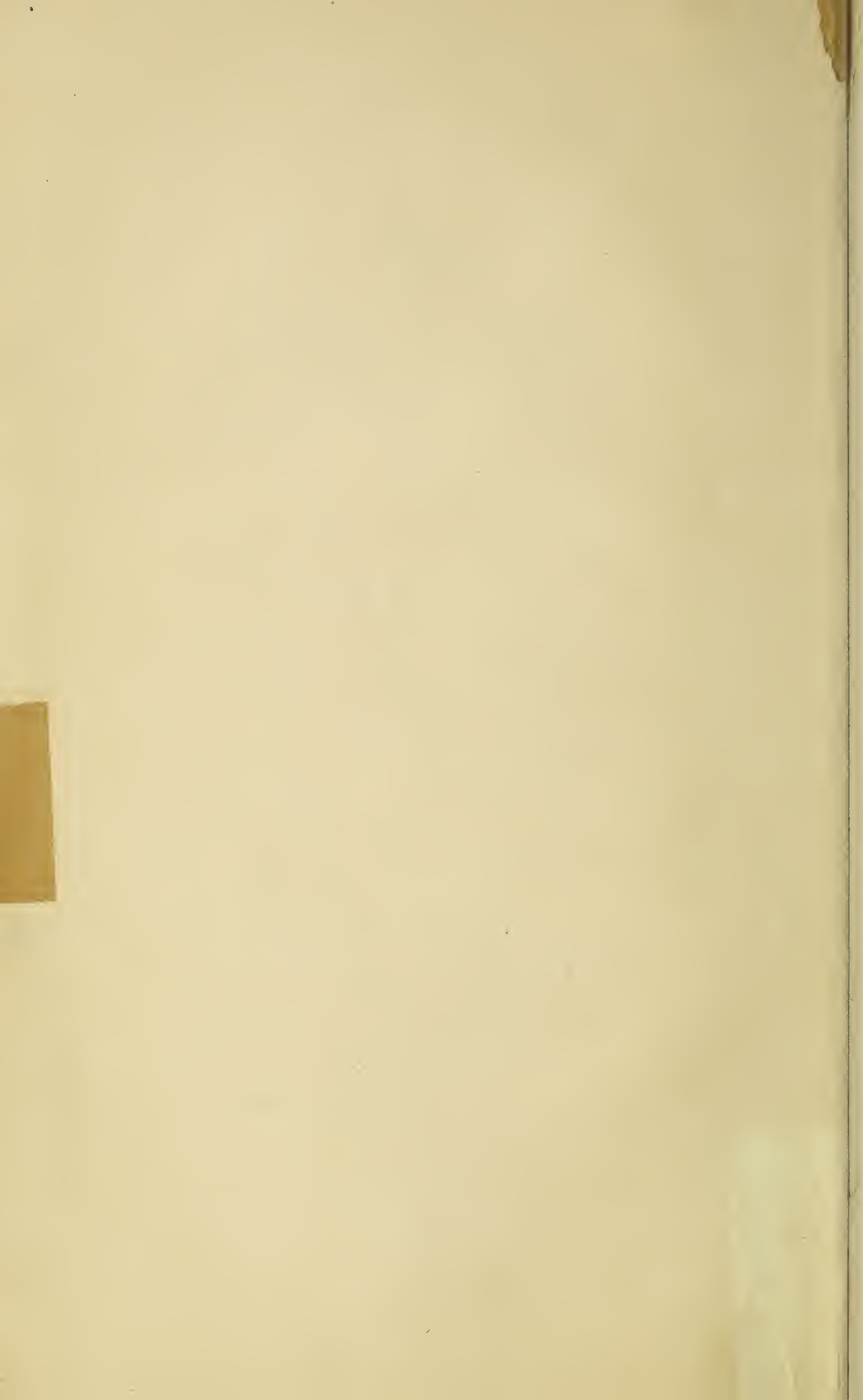
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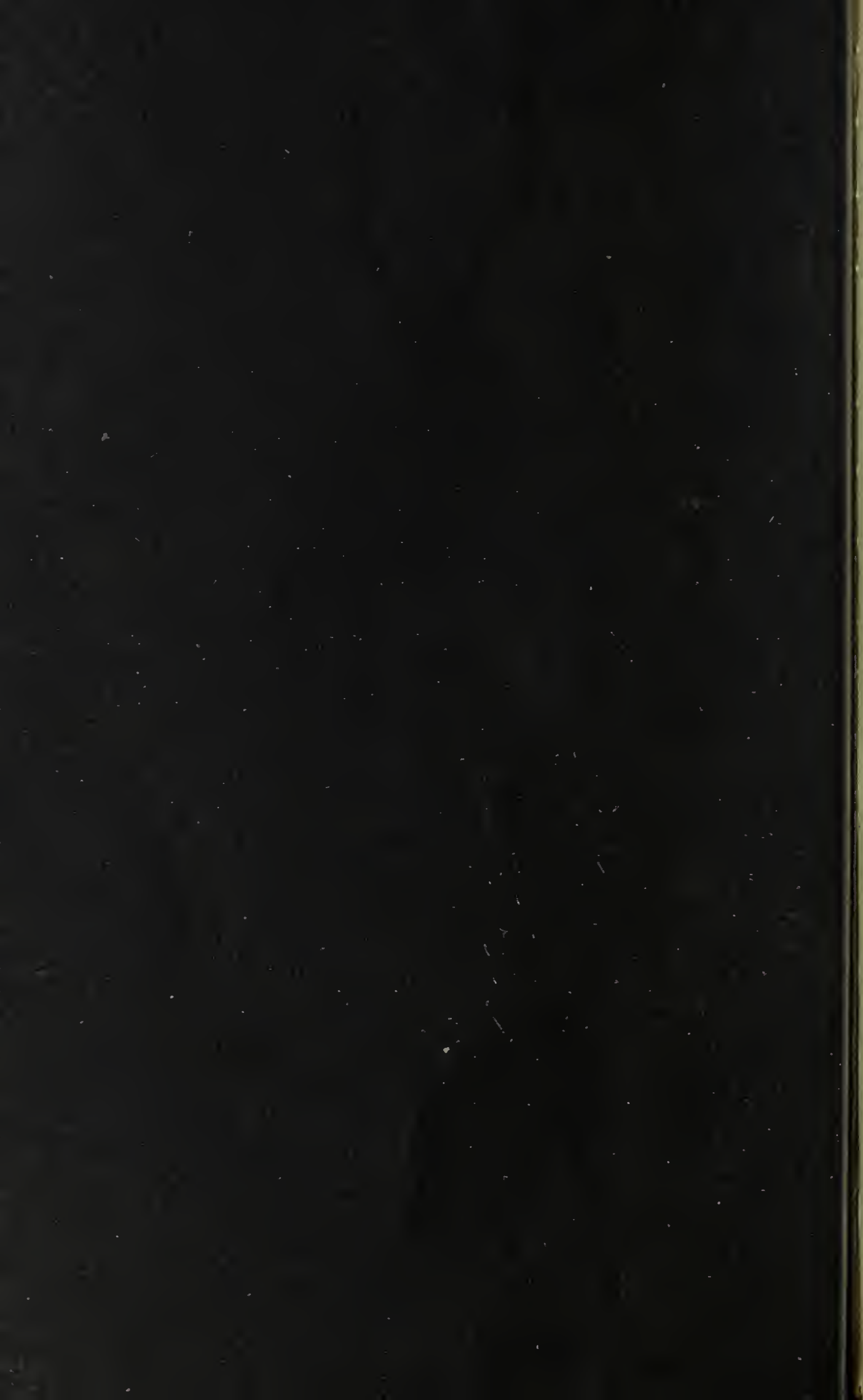
Emigration

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A CIRCULAR
FROM THE
COMMISSIONER OF EMIGRATION

TO THE
14
Agriculturists, Manufacturers and Capitalists
OF INDIANA;

PREPARED BY
JOHN A. WILSTACH,
COMMISSIONER,
UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF
HIS EXCELLENCY,

CONRAD BAKER,

ACTING GOVERNOR.

INDIANAPOLIS:
SAMUEL M. DOUGLASS, STATE PRINTER.

1866.





CIRCULAR.

The undersigned, in his capacity of Commissioner for the encouragement of emigration to the State of Indiana, authorized to take such steps, both in the United States and in Europe, as he may deem advisable for the purpose, and designing, with a view to the more ready and convenient accomplishment of anticipated results, to visit the Universal Exposition to be held at Paris in the year 1867, under an appointment from His Excellency, LIEUT. GOVERNOR BAKER, acting as Governor, desires to enlist in the objects of his appointment the interest and co-operation of the mercantile community, the business and carrying corporations, the agriculturists and manufacturers, the land-holders and capitalists of Indiana.

GOVERNOR MORTON, in his message of January, 1865, represented to the General Assembly the acknowledged importance of emigration as a source of prosperity and wealth; and called attention to the necessity of legislative action in view of the competition to which the State was exposed from her western rivals, who, without equal claims, were, with superior activity and vigilance, reaping rich advantages by directing the stream of emigration across her territory to their own borders. He earnestly recommended our imitation of the establishment of Bureaus of Emigration which, in other States, have added to the population and wealth of the States they represent, by maintaining one or more agents in Europe, charged with the duty of furnishing to persons about to emigrate to America, geographical, statistical, sanitary, and educational information as to their respective States, and of placing in their hands means appropriated by their legislatures to aid them in journeying to their new homes.

In his message to the special session of November and December last, he renewed these recommendations in connection with a suggestion of the propriety of making legislative provision for the representation of the State at the French Universal Exposition, as an eminent opportunity of advertising to the people of Europe the great resources, progress, and wealth of the State, the energy, intelligence, and refinement of her people, and the superior inducements and advantages presented to immigration.

The latter message was referred, in the House of Representa-

tives, to the Committee on Agriculture, of which Mr. HOGATE was chairman, and in the Senate to a select committee whose chairman was Mr. THOMPSON.

A bill was introduced first in the House, by Representative JOHN L. MILLER, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, when, after consultation between the committees of the two houses, a substitute, enlarging the details of Mr. MILLER's bill, and making a specific appropriation, was reported in the Senate by Mr. THOMPSON, and in the House by Mr. HOGATE. Its provisions were, in some degree, commensurate to the attainment of the objects in view; but an amendment which prevailed in the Senate, reducing the appropriation from five thousand to three thousand dollars, had the effect to discourage the friends of the bill, and in the multitude of other business, the bringing of which to a state of perfection has signalized this Legislature as an eminently industrious and unpartisan body, the project of taking steps toward the establishment of an Emigration Bureau, or even an Emigration or World's Fair Commission, through legislative action, was, by common consent, postponed.

Good results have doubtless attended the publication and circulation of a pamphlet in both English and German, setting forth the general advantages presented by the condition and resources of the State as a home for emigrants, and prepared under the direction and by authority of GOVERNOR MORTON, in 1864. Certainly the judicious distribution of such a pamphlet in Europe, among the emigrating public, could not fail to attract to the claims of our State a large share of attention.

In further acknowledgment of the efforts put forth by the friends of these statesman-like and liberal views and measures, the Commissioner also avails himself of this opportunity to refer to the enlightened interest in them exhibited by the Hon. GODLOVE S. ORTH, by whom, in his capacity of member of the Committee of Foreign Affairs in the national House of Representatives, the weighty questions connected with our international relations have been made the subject of careful attention and study.

And, in the absence of any legislation, and sharing these liberal convictions and views, LIEUTENANT AND ACTING GOVERNOR BAKER has set on foot this Commission, providing, in an explanatory letter accompanying the document which confers the authority of a Commissioner on the undersigned, that indemnity for the expenses of the enterprise, and payment for the services rendered therein, shall be the subjects of the future discretion of the Legislature.

From the foregoing recital it would seem that Indiana has yet to legislate on questions which might be supposed to furnish topics chiefly interesting to the law-making power, namely, the ways and means of maintaining the relative position of the State in the sisterhood of the Union.

The diligence and success, in this regard, of the States west of

Indiana, is matter of universal notoriety, and a comparative view of their operations would show that the more diligent have secured the more valuable results.

Since 1859, even Michigan, our northern neighbor, claiming no competition with Indiana in soil and climate, has had a Bureau of Emigration, whose efforts have given to that commonwealth an otherwise unattainable impetus in the pathway of substantial progress.

Nor are we exposed to competition only on the west and north : on the east and south, also, the importance of this element of improvement has been recognized and acted upon in an energetic manner by the State governments to extend to the laborer of the Old World invitation and welcome. By a law of the 14th of April, 1863, the Ohio Legislature authorized the Governor of that State to appoint a Commissioner of Emigration, and by a subsequent act the annual sum of five thousand dollars was allowed him for his salary and the expenses incident to the discharge of his duties. The efforts of the Southern States in the same direction, through busy and intelligent agents both in this country and Europe, have given occasion among the German Emigration Associations of America and others having at heart the welfare of their kinsmen or former neighbors, to publish urgent protestations and warnings to the emigrating public not to seek a region impoverished, thinned of its population and disorganized by rebellion, where they will find but few vestiges of German society, where schools have not been encouraged, where labor is without respect and without adequate reward, and where the natives of more northern latitudes will contend with the ills of an enervating climate.

Taking the statistics of emigration through the port of New York alone, it is shown by the records of the Emigration Commission of the State of New York, that the arrivals of emigrants at Castle Garden, from the 1st day of January, 1847, to the 8th day of December, 1865, a period of nearly nineteen years, reached a total of three million three hundred and forty-two thousand two hundred and twenty-nine, making the average arrivals at that port, per annum, about one hundred and seventy-five thousand, the largest number of arrivals in any one year being, in 1854, three hundred and nineteen thousand two hundred and twenty-three, averaging nearly one thousand per day, and the smallest being naturally in 1861, the first year of the war, sixty-five thousand five hundred and twenty-nine, averaging about two hundred per day.

To an extent unknown before the war, the events of the last four years have drawn the attention of Europeans looking hitherward, to the power and stability of the Government, and, by logical induction, to the extent and resources of the United States. It is scarcely a metaphor to say that the reverberations of the cannon of Vicksburg were heard among the valleys of the Carpathian mountains and along the shores of the Zuyder-Zee. Knowledge

of the topography and capabilities of our country, coupled with confidence in the perpetuity of our institutions, will again renew the tide of emigration and ensure the arrival of emigrants surpassing in intelligence and thrift the average character of the arrivals of any former time.

The United States census returns show the population of Indiana in 1850 to have been nine hundred and eighty-five thousand four hundred and sixteen; in 1860, one million three hundred and fifty thousand four hundred and twenty-eight, an average increase, in the highest tide of our prosperity, of only about three and a half per cent. per year. The waste of life in the war, the loss of population by the voluntary settlements made by many of our soldiers and citizens in the South, the comparative cessation of the stream of emigration to the United States during the conflict, the extraordinary efforts now being made by the legislatures and executives of other States, readily show that the progress of the State of Indiana, in point of population and consequent wealth and character, depend upon timely and liberal efforts to bring within our borders a far greater proportion of emigrants than by voluntary choice of location would be at all likely to come hither. It can need no argument to show that the voluntary settlements made here by Europeans have largely contributed to the development of our resources, have heightened private enterprise in all the pursuits of life, have aided public spirit, and have contributed to the strength and character of our governments, both State and National. Leaving out of view the means which are brought here by many of the emigrants to add at once to the wealth of the State, the labor of each industrious new-comer has its value. If we place it at the moderate average of five hundred dollars per year to the individual, the State gains, for every thousand emigrants that settle within her limits, a half a million of dollars in actual added value to its property. Supposing that only a thousand emigrants a year would be induced to settle in the State—which could easily be exceeded—and taking a term of ten years at this average, we have twenty-seven millions and a half of dollars added to the value of the property of the State, from the laboring emigration alone, in ten years. There can be no reasonable doubt that the actual results would require that these conjectural estimates should be multiplied by a considerable figure.

Taking affairs, however, as we find them, without legislative props or fiscal helps, the present stress of the enterprise must rest upon the hands of individuals.

The individuals chiefly interested are, of course, those who hold the lands, the capital, and the franchises of the State.

To these the Commissioner respectfully addresses this circular; and that his wishes may be definitely understood, he asks that his correspondents will favor him with their advice and propositions, under the two following heads, namely: First, General Advantages, and, secondly, Specific Proposals.

1. State the general characteristics of your locality, your county or tier of counties, as to soil, markets, prices of lands. State, also, the mineral productions, if any, materials for building, water-power, any statistics of produce, or any other facts of interest as to agricultural or manufacturing facilities, the number of schools, and, approximatively, the number, nativities and religious associations of the adopted citizens.

2d. State what proposals to emigrants you are willing that the Commissioner should make in your behalf; what character of emigrants, and of what nativity, you desire, and in what number, and within what limit of time, and what arrangements you propose for their reception here, and what you propose in the way of gratuities, credit, and special advantages.

It should be borne in mind that the emigration to the United States divides itself into three classes, each of which is desirable:

1. The farmer and farm-laborer.
2. The skilled mechanic and artisan.
3. The man of wealth, the capitalist.

Now, the inducements to be offered to the skilled mechanic and the capitalist are greater than those which can be offered by the more Western States. Society is organized here; the necessities of all, the luxuries of many, call for the employment of skillful hands in the ornamental and useful arts, in vast public works of general utility, in architecture and its whole obsequious train of employments, in the furniture of our houses, the adornments of persons, and even in our intellectual enjoyments—the newspaper and the book. Growing communities put forth loud demands for this indispensable aid, and for want of it improvements are often tardy and imperfect. Older communities growing not rapidly but slowly, or remaining at a stand-still or retrograding, or having a large proportion of skilled mechanics, yield to skilled labor no such encouragement. And infant communities, just organizing, call chiefly for the ruder arts sufficient for present exigencies. The inducements to the capitalist are also patent: a prosperous community; growing in population, aspiring to the formation of permanent structures, to the establishment of roads, bridges, manufacturing establishments, to the developement of a domain of wide extent and almost inexhaustible fertility—such a community will not need to wait long before the enterprising capitalist will recognize its advantages and make his home in the vicinity of his investments. Argument and conviction based on incontestable facts will thus suffice to secure the coming of skilled labor and cash capital into the State: the mechanic and the man of means will find their way here in answer to appeals based upon their obvious interests. They will supply a need. They will establish manufactories to consume the raw products of the State

which now, to a degree incompatible with a sound political economy, form the subjects of exportation. Yet, such is the dependence of one class of the community upon another, their abode here cannot be secured permanently unless we raise to a higher degree of development our material resources, and unless in corresponding quantity we produce the raw material by a more extensive use of the implements and the area of agriculture.

The State of Indiana possesses rare fertility of soil, admirable diversification of timber and prairie, of upland and valley. Fountains and living streams give her abundant water-power. Nearly a fourth of her area is a coal-field. In many of her counties iron is abundant. She possesses a greater proportion of arable land to her superficial surface than any other State in the Union, or of the same extent on the globe. Nearly two-thirds of her productive area yet glories in its original grasses and flowers, where the elements and the beasts of prey or of the chase enjoy almost uninterrupted rule. This would seem an inviting prospect. Yet, with it all, the State of Indiana enjoys a peculiar position toward the emigrating farmer and farm-laborer. Constantly urging the emigrating farmer to the States of the farther West, are the prospect of pre-empting a home, or of purchasing lands at the Government price, and the fear that the good lands of an older State are occupied by earlier comers or held at prices beyond his ability to pay. He is also met by the agents of the Emigration Bureaus of other States, who advisedly keep out of his view the hardships of a frontier life and the long years of effort and exposure, at points distant from roads and shut out from markets, which will retard and dwarf his success.

Special inducements, then, must be held out to the foreign agriculturist. He must be shown that the apparent cheapness of lands may be, under circumstances, real dearness. He must be shown the ready opportunity for work on or near farms already opened. He must be shown that lands, either improved or unimproved, are to be had in Indiana at less rates than lands enjoying the same advantages would be held at even beyond the Mississippi. He must be shown the certainty of good wages; the convenience of schools for the instruction of his children; the benefits of social intercourse denied him on the frontier; the advantages which he may expect from the near neighborhood of emigrants of his own religion or of his own nativity—Prussians near Prussians, Bavarians near Bavarians, Hanoverians near Hanoverians; the ease of finding a market at good prices for his products—all advantages which he could not enjoy to so great a degree in newer States.

The Commissioner deems it prudent to select, as the starting-point of his active efforts in this behalf in Europe, the French Universal Exposition of 1867, an exhibition of scope so wide, of detail so exhaustive, of display so imposing, as to entitle it to mark an epoch in the history of civilization. In attendance upon such an exhibition, in contact with the inhabitants of all nations,

and with those of the European continent in large numbers, and in possession of the wishes and needs of his fellow-citizens, and of an armory of special and persuasive facts and arguments, he will find himself, to a greater extent than he could otherwise expect to be, capable of imparting to the industrious and skillful emigrant exact information as to the unparalleled claims held out to him by Indiana. Thus informed, the emigrant will be able to see and judge for himself, from data in which he may feel confidence, the certain prospect of bettering his own condition while aiding in eliminating our resources and in establishing here those workshops which now, at our expense, enrich the merchant and the capitalist, without bettering the condition of the working man, of the Old World. We need the working man of Europe here to plow to the surface the golden cereal wealth of our primitive prairies. We need him to give work to those latent, incorporeal but Titanic forces, those Samsons, which play in our streamlets, bathe in our rivers, and slumber in our beds of coal.

Before the war, the work of more laborers and artisans was an admitted need. During the war we felt in a greater degree the same need. The future may show that this need has not yet reached its greatest degree. In the meantime, however, we have been offered an opportunity. The leading part taken in the late momentous struggle by our beloved State, has made her name memorable throughout enlightened Europe. In the annals of patriotic zeal and military glory, she may claim companionship with historic States. And to secure her permanent welfare it only remains to demonstrate her fitness, in every sense, as a home for peoples escaping the scarcities and hardships of less favored lands. From their own fields, enriched with their sweat, or famous by their blood, they have long watched the "Star of Empire" pendent in our western sky. From the shadow of institutions rooted in feudalism, they will gladly seek the sunlight of political, social, and mercantile liberty. Thus will Indiana, eminent in arms and arts, maintain her relative position in the family of the Union, and the pleasant fruits which her new citizens will gather in this their new field of labor, will be harvested not for themselves alone, but for their and our children, as an addition to the common store, and for the common wealth.

JOHN A. WILSTACH.
Indiana Commissioner of Emigration.

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, }
February 22, 1866. }





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